

REMARKS

In the official action dated August 5, 2004, all the original Claims 1 – 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Tseng et al U.S. Patent 6,397,736.

It is first to be noted that the cited reference was expressly cited and distinguished in the original application as filed. It is believed that all the original claims also clearly distinguished over this reference, particularly under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Nevertheless, the claims have been amended to even more sharply distinguish over this reference.

Thus, Claim 1 originally recited that the first group of blades consisted of two blades located on opposite sides of the central circular region. This clearly distinguished over the cited Tseng patent, which discloses four such blades in the construction of Fig. 3, and a much larger number of such blades in the construction of Fig. 5. Nevertheless, Claim 1 has been amended to further recite, among other features, that one of the two blades in the first group extends diametrically across one side of the central circular region and terminates substantially at the center thereof, while the other blade extends diametrically across the opposite side of the central circular region and terminates short of the center thereof. This construction is clearly illustrated in all the described embodiments and is clearly described in the specification, for example in the paragraph starting on page 7, line 7. Such a cutter disc construction would be used in an appliance wherein the cutter disc is mounted eccentrically with respect to the inlet feed tube (as also now recited in amended Claim 1), thereby for the same reasons avoiding the “dead region” problem which was addressed by the center region construction in the cutter disc of the cited reference.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that Claim 1, particularly as now amended, is allowable over the cited reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 2 – 6, 8 and 9 all depend from Claim 1, and are therefore believed to be allowable with that claim for the same reasons as discussed above, apart from the additional features set forth in the respective dependent claims. In this respect, however, it is to be noted that Claim 6 adds the additional feature that the central region of the cutter disc on which the first group of blades is formed is separate from and rotatable with respect to the outer peripheral region on which the second group of blades is formed. Such a construction is illustrated in Fig. 5 of the present application, and clearly distinguishes over the constructions described in the cited reference.

Claim 11, drawn as a separate independent claim directed to the cutter disc *per se*, includes the above features set forth in amended Claim 1 with respect to the construction of the first group of blades in the central circular region, and is therefore believed to be allowable with Claim 1 for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 12, 13, 16, 17 and 18, all depend from Claim 11, and are therefore believed to be allowable with that claim apart from the further features set forth in the respective dependent claims.

Claim 19, drawn as the third independent claim, is directed to the cutter disc construction as illustrated in Fig. 5 wherein the central region, which includes the first group of blades, is separate from and rotatable with respect to the outer peripheral region which includes the second group of blades such as to permit rotation of the outer peripheral region independently of the central region. Such a construction is clearly absent in the cited reference, and it is submitted, therefore, that Claim 19 is also allowable over that reference.

Claim 20 depends from Claim 19, and is therefore believed to be allowable with that claim for the same reasons, apart from the additional features set forth in the respective claim.

The specification has been amended merely to conform the language included in the introductory portion of the specification to the language now used in the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sol Sheinbein', written in a cursive style.

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